(a) whether it is a fact that allocation of natural gas made for per day exceeds supply of it per day;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) how the gap would be filled in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Natural gas being eco-friendly and an economic feedstock fuel, an allocation to the extent of around 118.66 million standard cubic metres per day (MMSCMD) of natural gas has been made to the consumers in the various sectors including power, fertilizers and other industries, keeping in view the various demands. However, the current availability of natural gas is around 65 MMSCMD.

(d) To bridge the gap between demand and supply of natural gas there are various initiatives to increase domestic production through indigenous exploration and exploitation and also to import natural gas and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to India.

Selling of valuable art works of NGMA

2392. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan in the near future or at present to sell out the valuable art works to different exponents from the National Gallery of Modern Arts (NGMA), New Delhi; and

(b) the mode of selection of such art works which will be sold off?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

Central assistance for Science City in Gujarat

2393. SHRI RAJU PARMAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has requested the Central Government for release of Rs.41 crores to Science City Project at Ahmedabad;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government have agreed in principle and announced release of Rs.41 crores for Science City Project at Ahmedabad;

(c) by when, the Ministry is releasing Rs.41 crores for the said project;

(d) whether Government have given any financial assistance for Science City Project in other States; and

(e) if so, the reasons for not releasing financial assistance for Science City Project for Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In June 2001, a proposal for financial assistance to the tune of Rs.51.00 crores for setting up of Science City at Ahmedabad was received. The total cost of this project is Rs.392.30 crores and is under examination.

(c) Since the proposal is still in initial stages of examination, it is too early to indicate the time for release of funds.

(d) Apart from setting up a Science City already set up at Kolkata, the Government has agreed to provide financial assistance for setting up a Science City at Jalandhar (Punjab).

(e) The fund can be released only after the project has been examined and approval of the competent authority in the Government of India is obtained.

Science City in Hyderabad

2394. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY :
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any request from Government of Andhra Pradesh was received for setting up of a Science City in Hyderabad;

(b) if so, when such a request was received by the Central Government;

(c) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has also requested for release of Rs.200 crores for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In November 1999, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh had